



# The Hope Reporter

Hope Lutheran Church (321)242-1610 [vierawest.org](http://vierawest.org)

Sunday Worship 8 AM & 10:30 AM Christian Education 9:15 A.M.

A Monthly Newsletter

December 2008

## Why Cats are Better than Dogs

This may seem a bit off topic, but I think I am on to something here. Many of you know that the Moreno home (herein referred to as “Animal Compound”) is where many pets (herein referred to as “insanus fleabagii”) in Brevard County live. Some of you know that my wife (herein referred to as “the boss”) decided to get another insanus fleabagii of the feline persuasion. None of you know the extent to which I suffer from these insanus fleabagii!

Well, I have observed while relaxing in the comfort of my Animal Compound that the insanus fleabagii have differing qualities and characteristics:

**Wrigley Dog** (named for where the Cubs have been losing for 100 years and the first insanus fleabagii the boss bought w/o my prior knowledge) has the ability to sit and lay down just about anywhere. The couch, the bed, my pillow, at the foot of tables and chairs, as well as my feet. He basically proves gravity is winning.

**Rose Dog** (a gift from Mimi (herein referred to as “mother in law”)) has the ability to bark at anything, and boy do I mean anything: A passing car, the dryer, the wind, the TV, and anything else that moves or is stationary or makes noise or is silent. I think that about covers it.

**Max Dog** (the second insanus fleabagii the boss bought w/o my prior knowledge) has the ability to go to the bathroom everywhere except the grass. Without getting too graphic, you can imagine this isn't the best characteristic to possess.

**Choco II Cat** (the first Choco is a long and complicated story) is awesome. I rarely see him, hear him, or have to deal with him. But I do smell him. A lot. More than I want, if I may be honest.

**Cocoa Cat** (the boss can only be charged as an accessory on this one) is the newest member at the Animal Compound. This kitten is hyper vigilant as most other insanus fleabagii in the compound want to devour her.

Here is the upshot and faith application to you this Advent season (really):

These animals remind me of how different people handle life and stress. Some just lay around and waits to see what will come their way. Others react to everything by yelling as asserting themselves. Still others do the right thing in the wrong place. Then there are those precious few that are astute and carefully watch everything develop around them. Those that are subtle and understated in the way they present themselves and seem to possess an unflappable demeanor. This Advent season will bring its share of stress and troubles. But thanks be to God that we don't have to just wait around and then react to whatever life throws at us. In Christ, we can be proactive in our life and faith! Learn a lesson from the Moreno Animal

Compound this December: Never get a pet. Ever, under any circumstances. When it is mentioned, quickly change the subject or start singing “I'm a little teapot” (it was effective for awhile at least). **In Christ; Pastor Moreno**



### HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Dec. 3 @ 7 PM**

**Advent Midweek**

**Dec. 10 @ 7 PM**

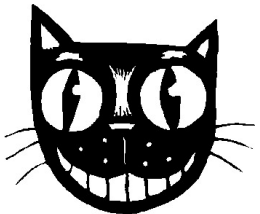
**Advent Midweek**

**Dec. 17 @ 7 PM**

**Advent Midweek**

**Dec. 24 @ 7 PM**

**Christmas Eve**



## Confirmation

**Senior Youth Christmas Party!! Dec. 21**  
**Have gift for a secret santa, more info to come!**

## Holiday Worship Services

# Family Night Dec. 12

# Christmas

# DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

## Reader Greeter Sunday School (9:15)

Dec. 7 (8 am)	S. Minster	McLaughlins	R. Moreno & J. Decker
(10:30)	J. Jaunich	Wolfs	
Dec. 14 (8 am)	J. Eckman	Abfalters	A. Eckman & M. Stanley
(10:30)	T. McLeran	Howards	
Dec. 21 (8 am)	L. McLaughlin	Cowarts	R. Meranda & T. Thompson
(10:30)	A. Wolf	Sass	
Dec. 28 (8 am)	R. Kerley	Kochs	A. Cowart & M. Lawrence
(10:30)	A. Meranda	Terwilligers	

## Angel Tree

Hope is getting involved this Christmas season with Children's Home Society to provide gifts for the foster children in their agency.

Children's Home Society provides care to over 40 children in Brevard County, from those waiting to be returned home, to those who are waiting to be adopted.

### Birthdays

4 Tracy Thompson  
4 Jeannie Sass  
7 Adam Meranda  
15 Tracey McLaughlin  
15 Marylin Stanley  
23 James Stanley  
28 Roxanne Kerley  
29 Eric Havens  
30 Kyle Burrier  
31 Olivia Thompson

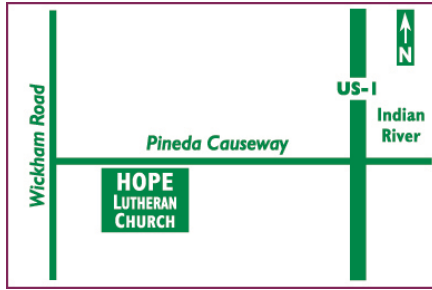
### Anniversaries

Dec. 9 Sass  
Dec. 15, 2002 Stanleys  
Dec. 28, 1985 Kerleys

An angel tree will be displayed at the back of church with the names of 44 children whose 3 wishes will be listed on the back. Please choose an angel from the tree and sign your name on the poster next to the tree as to whom you chose.

Then have fun shopping for your angel. Buy whatever you wish from the list they provide. Put your gifts in a Christmas gift bag and attach the angel tag to the bag. Bring the gifts back to church by Sunday, December 14th, so they can be blessed during Church services, and the Havens will take them to the agency to be distributed. You will be helping to make Christmas very special for these little angels from God!

If you want to help Children's Home Society but don't care to shop, you may choose to make a monetary donation. You may put your donation in the offering plate or give to Wendy Havens. Thank you!




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**Sunday Worship 8 AM & 10:30 AM Christian Education 9:15**

# December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Choir 6 PM 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	3 Advent Worship 7 PM AA meeting 7:30 PM	4 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	5 Pinewood Derby Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Ladies Night 6 PM Junior Youth Lock In 7 PM	6 Hope Christmas Decorating 10 AM
7 Worship 8 AM Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Voters 12 Noon Youth Night 6 PM	8 Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	9 Choir 6 PM 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	10 Advent Dinner at the Morenos 7 PM AA meeting 7:30 PM	11 Confirmation 6:30 PM @ Hope 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	12 Scrap-booking 9:30 AM Family Movie Night 6:30 PM	13 All Seated service at FVLC 11 AM
14 Worship 8 AM Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Youth Night 6 PM	15 Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	16 Choir 6 PM Christ on Campus Suntree 2:30 PM 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	17 Christ on Campus Quest 2:30 PM Advent Worship Children's Program 7 PM AA meeting 7:30 PM	18 Christ on Campus Williams 2:30 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	19 Scrap-booking 9:30 AM	20 Angel Tree Delivery
21 Worship 8 AM Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Youth Christmas Party	22	23 Choir 6 PM 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5 & 7 PM AA meeting 7:30 PM	25 Christmas Day Worship @ FVLC 10 AM	26 Scrap-booking 9:30 AM	27
28 Worship 8 AM Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM	29	30 Choir 6 PM 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	31 New Years Eve Worship @ FVLC 5 PM AA meeting 7:30 PM	1 7 PM Men's Basketball @ Health First	2 	
4 Worship 8 AM Ch. Ed 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM	Pastor Moreno in St. Louis Jan. 4 - 16, 2009			DECEMBER		

## **Voters Meeting Dec. 7**

Every December we have a report to share with the congregation. We will have a brief presentation here at Hope and then at noon we'll meet over at Faith "Viera" Lutheran for a Voters meeting. All Hope members are FVLC members and are able to attend. Prayerfully consider attending, help share the wonderful things that have happened at Hope!

## **Advent & Christmas Decorating Dec. 6 @ 10 AM**

If you are interested in helping decorate the church for the upcoming holiday season, please let Pastor know. A group will be getting together December 6 to set up the tree and decorate the whole church. We start at 10 AM and will also be straightening up the church to make it look its best!



### **Women's Night Out DEC. 5**

We are planning another Ladies Night Out. We will meet at Fiesta Azteca on Wickham Rd. at 6 PM. We are planning on a relaxing dinner, interesting conversation, and a wonderful Christmas devotion. Please plan on attending – and bring a friend! Look for the sign up sheet in the back of church.

### **Pastor Moreno in St. Louis**

In January (the 4th through 16th) Pastor Moreno will be headed to St. Louis to continue his studies in his doctorate program. This time around he is taking Pastoral Theology & Care as well as Historical Theology. This is a 54 hour degree program and Pastor will have completed 33 hours after this session. Pray for him!

### **Funny Stuff**

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of a few boys about 10 years of age, surrounding a dog. Concerned that the boys were hurting the animal, he went over and asked them what they were doing.

One of the boys replied, "This dog is an old neighborhood stray. We take him home with us sometimes, but only one of us can take him home. So we're having a contest: whichever one of us tells the biggest lie can take him home today."

Of course, the Reverend was shocked. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then launched into a 10-minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie?" and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie."

There was complete silence for about a minute. As the Reverend smiled with satisfaction that he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh. "All right," he said, "give him the dog."

### **AA Meetings at Hope**

We are hosting an all-womens Alcoholic Anonymous group here at Hope on Wednesday nights. This is a great ministry aimed at helping people win the battle against addiction. If you know of anyone that would benefit from attending this ministry, please encourage them to try one of the many AA groups here in Brevard!